Checking of sati system

361. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the system of 'Sati' in the country;

(b) whether the 'groups' that glorified the recent incident of 'Sati' in Rajasthan and organised subsequent pro-'Sati' demonstrations have been identified; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) A proposal to bring about Central Legislation is under consideration.

(b) and (c) The State Government have reported that initially 58 persons were arrested [illegible]than. The report of the [illegible] Commissioner, Rajasthan [illegible] to the end of November [illegible] basis of which further action will be taken.

जंगलों में परती जमीन का विकास

362. **श्री रशीद मसूद :** क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या जंगलों में परती जमीन के विकास के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय नीति तैयार किये जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त नीति को कब तक घोषित कर दिये जाने की संभावना है ; और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि इस विषय में यथोचित निर्णय न किये जाने के कारण देश की अनेकों औद्योगिक इकाइयों को आर्थिक संकट का सामना करना पड़ रहा है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जेड आर अंसारी): (क) वन में परती जमीन का विकास विद्यमान राष्ट्रीय वन नीति के अंतर्गत आता है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) जी, नहीं। राज्य सरकारों को व्यवस्था को प्रोत्साहन देने की सलाह दी गई है जिससे छोटे और सीमांत किसान उनके पास उपलब्ध अवक्रमित भूमि में उद्योगों के लिए कच्चे माल का उत्पादन कर सके।

Opening of new spinning mills

363. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the target of opening new spinning mills in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) how many textile spinning mills in cooperative sector in Maharashtra did not get finance through the appropriate financial agencies during the last three years, yearwise; and

(c) what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Union Government have not set any target for the opening of new spinning mills in the country during the Seventh Five Year plan.

(b) According to available information, eleven cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra were unable to obtain financial assistance during the last three years.

(c) The financial institutions feel that adequate spinning capacity has been already created in the country for the Seventh Five Year plan period and that new spinning units, capital-

cost wise, would therefore not be viable propositions.

Rath Yatras And Marches

364. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of certain elements to organise Rath Yatras and marches by Muslims in November, 1987 to rekindle communal passions on the controversial Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid issue; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to stop these marches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As the law and order is the responsibility of the respective State Governments, they would no doubt take appropriate action as and when the need arises.

Repealing of Section 44BB of the Income Tax Act

365. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incorporation of Section 44BB in the Income Tax Act during the last Budget Session has helped Indian companies engaged in providing services to the 'oil sector' and other fields; and

(b) whether it is a fact that some vested interests are trying to have this useful Section repealed not only in the case of companies supplying equipment but also in the case of companies supplying services; and if so, what is Government's stand in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Section 44BB of the Income-tax Act will enable the companies providing services and facilities for prospecting, exploration and exploitation of mineral oil to ascertain their income-tax liability in respect of this activity with precision. To that extent, simplification of the law helps the Indian tax-payers.

(b) A representation has been received on behalf of certain companies engaged in providing services in connection with or supplying plant and machinery on hire in prospecting for or extraction or production of mineral oil. The representation is under consideration.

Indo-Japan Trade

366. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the balance of trade between India and Japan has constantly been adverse against India for the last five years; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the present trade gap with Japan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Efforts to improve the present trade gap with Japan include participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, Buyers-Sellers Meet, exchange of delegations and product development with a view to diversify Indian exports to value added items.